

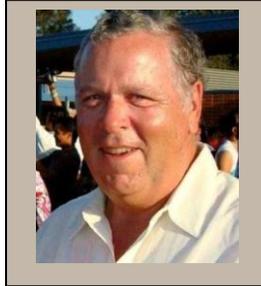
A Voice for Vocations

April 2015

Serra Club City of Orange
Region 11, District 127, Charter 643



PREZ SEZ
Matt Ivary, President



Our Mission... to foster, affirm and promote vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and all ministries in the Catholic Church, and through this support of all ministries, to deepen our members' personal faith lives.

Officer Roster 2015 – 2016

President	Matt Ivary
President Elect	Janie Hanson
Treasurer	Ed Haske
Programs	Patty Baer
Vocations	Wally Drazba
Hospitality	Joan Amort Paul Amort
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Communications	Nancy Ivary
Newsletter	Anne Champagne
Recording Secretary	TBA
Corresponding Secretary	Carol DeFeo
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Trustees:	Jim Baer Maureen Neglia Stan Espenship

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Fr. Felix Just, SJ

Spiritual Advisor:

Sr. Nadine McGuiness, CSJ

District 127 Governor:

Wally Drazba

Fr. Junipero Serra

All of us are excited about the upcoming canonization of our patron, Blessed Junipero Serra. However, we acknowledge that there are some Native Americans who are quite vocal in opposing it. Perhaps we should all be familiar with his story and ready to extol his virtues.

After Pope Francis announced that he will canonize Serra in September during his trip to the United States, several supportive articles--and some not so--have come out in the press. The articles seems to take a simplistic "good/bad, either/or" dualistic approach to Serra's canonization rather than the mature "both/and" approach that Fr. Felix would have us consider. First of all, a clarification: the Catholic Church does not make saints. Saints are men and women who lived lives in obedience to God's will, and the Church simply recognizes as saints those souls it can hold up as models for us to follow in living a good, redeemed life in the service of others. Bl. Serra was human, but he was indeed a saint of his own time.

Miguel Jose Serra entered the Order of St. Francis of Assisi when he was 16 years old in 1729 and took the name of Junipero, in honor of the companion to St. Francis. In his ministry he taught philosophy at the Convent of San Francisco in Mallorca, Spain, but he always wanted to be a missionary. When he finally got the opportunity, Fr. Serra set sail to the New World, knowing that he would likely never see home again, to fulfill his life's dream to bring the gospel to the native peoples of America. He arrived in Mexico City on December 8, 1749, after walking for 24 days after landing in Vera Cruz. He was 36 years old. He then spent the next 17 years in missionary work in north-central Mexico in the missions that the Jesuits had turned over to the Franciscans when they were forced to leave Mexico by Spain. Fr. Serra became president of these 15 missions in 1767.

In 1769 Spain launched a military expedition north into California lead by Gaspar de Portola. This expedition was to settle the land and prevent any further Russian colonization of the coastal northern California territory that Spain claimed as its own. Now 56 years old, Fr. Serra traveled with this troop and founded the first mission, San Diego de Alcala, in July of that year. Over the next 15 years Fr. Serra would personally found 9 of the eventual 21 California missions before his death in 1784 at 70 years of age.

The legacy of Fr. Serra's missions is the history of California. Twenty-one cities, all named for Saints. Fr. Serra brought the gospel to the new world natives as Spain worked to expand her holdings in the new world and exploit the natural resources found there. The realities of those days are different than today. Fr. Serra was a product of 18th century Spanish heritage and lived in the midst of this European colonization struggle for California.

Archbishop Gomez believes Fr. Serra was a protector and defender of the native peoples during this time of colonial exploitation and violence. He said, "We cannot judge 18th century attitudes and behavior by 21st century standards. But the demands of gospel love are the same in every age." (continued on Page 2)

Upcoming Events

APR 7: MEETING

Speaker: **Patty Baer**
"The Road to Emmaus"

APR 21: MEETING

Speaker: **Wally Drazba**
Support of our Seminarians

APR 26: SAVE THE DATE!
Annual Day of Prayer for Vocations

MAY 3: SAVE THE DATE!
"Hearts on Fire" Dinner

MAY 5: MEETING
Speaker: **Fr. Felix Just, SJ**

MAY 19: NO MEETING

Save the Date! Nov 6-8-15:
Region 11 Conference
Ventura Beach Marriott



Meet to Pray, Organize, Invite and Work
For the Frontland and the Consecrated Life

SAVE THE DATE!
REGION 11 CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2015
VENTURA BEACH MARRIOTT
SAN BUENAVENTURA MISSION

"Always Forward! Strengthening Our Serra Clubs"



Club Newz

On Tuesday, March 3, 2015, we were visited by one of our very own seminarians, Phung Nguyen. Phung shared with us that he “Thanks God that he was able to grow up around many gentle and holy people such as his parents, his pastors, and his siblings. He has learned so much from their example and their simple lifestyles. He has always looked up to them as role models: of a life he wanted to live and of a life that God is calling him to consider at this moment. His parents played an important role in making him who he is today. They taught him to do what is right and avoid doing what God’s law forbids. He recognized how hard his parents worked in order to provide for his physical needs and his educational supplies. Therefore, he has promised himself that he will do his very best with his life, so that their love, support, and hard work will not be in vain. When he thinks about what he has in life, he is very grateful for his family and he truly treasures what has been given to him.

It has been five years since Phung has been away from his home in Vietnam and from his family members. He misses them very much, but in return, God has given him many sincere people around him, who love and support him. As Phung proceeds toward his pastoral year, he is asking us for our prayer, so that his pastoral year will be fruitful. All for the glory of God!”

(continued from Page 1)

Gomez continued, “The missionaries of that first generation were creative and pioneering students of the indigenous peoples and cultures they served. They learned the local languages, customs, and beliefs. And they sowed the seeds of the Gospel to create a rich Christian civilization . . . Indeed, Padre Serra’s canonization will be a beautiful day in the life of our nation. It will be a day to remember that our state and our country – and all of the nations of the Americas – are born from the Christian mission, and built on Christian foundations.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Check out <http://www.serraclubofbethlehem.org/serra-4.htm> for a detailed history of Blessed Junipero Serra

Club Newz

On March 17th, Rev. Angelo Schettini, S.J. addressed our members on the topic of Italian Jesuits. The Society of Jesus runs the “Seminari Campagno”. In Campania (region of Italy) there are 25 Dioceses and a long, strong Catholic history. There are 2 seminaries, each with approx. 100 students. The area of Naples, Italy and the surrounds has a Spanish influence which is evidenced in even the local language. There are very strong, traditional religious devotions that take place in Southern Italy. In Campania, the seminarians are working to answer Our Pope Francis’ request to open themselves to, not just the liturgy, but the “larger world” and the poor. Our thanks go out to Fr. Angelo for keeping us updated on what is going on with seminarians half-way around the world, with seminarians that are supported by their local Serra Club.

Below: St John Seminary Trip, March 22, 2015
Photo opportunity at the beautiful “Grotto”



Below: Serra Club attendees and seminarians @ St. John’s





District Doings

WALLY DRAZBA

District Governor
Serra District 127

Vocation Corner
April 2015

Two weeks ago 31 Serrans and 5 guests answered the invitation of the Rector of St. John's Seminary. (Please see photos from our visit on Page 2). Msgr. Marc Trudeau invited all Serrans to celebrate Serra Day with our seminarians. Arbie Keown, President Elect for the County Club, invited Tim Reid, youth director at St. Cecilia and two young men who may be future seminarians. This was very thoughtful, Arbie. We all need to look out for new ways to promote vocations. We can't stop praying, but we need to do more. Have you asked any young person if they think they may be called to the priesthood or consecrated life?

The Serra Day coincides with a discernment weekend that some young men attended. Three of them were from our Diocese.

With only 31 Serrans in attendance, it may not be practical to rent the big luxury bus in the future. Some years ago, we car pooled, and that wasn't as expensive. We've tried to keep the cost low, but this year we are some \$250.00 short. That's a bit more than expected. I've heard remarks that this is really only one of the few things we do as a group to support vocations. Please try to arrange your schedule in the future, we're all busy, but we make time for all kinds of things.

Who will you be inviting to our next Serra Meeting?



Kathleen Beckman, L.H.S.

(continued from March 2015)

In the book, (endorsed by several bishops, including our Bishop Kevin Vann, beloved Shepherd of Orange Diocese), not only do we explore more prayers and sacrifices for vocations, we provide 100 pages of scriptural rosaries, prayers, and spiritual exercises—even for healing and forgiveness of past wounds. There is a chapter dedicated to encountering Jesus in the Eucharist, at Mass and Adoration, and a chapter on the power of the Holy Rosary with testimonies. Several vocation stories are included in the Appendix. Perhaps in a future Serra Newsletter we could print one of the vocation stories from a priest in the diocese of Orange? I invited 3 Orange Diocese priests to contribute their vocation stories for the book and website. May I encourage you to please visit the Foundation of Prayer for Priests website (designed by a seminarian friend at the Josephinum): www.foundationforpriests.org? Please “subscribe” on the Home Page to become members of the International family of spiritual mothers and fathers joined together in the mission of prayer for priests and vocations. You will see that Serra International is a collaborator. There are many free resources on the website. The book can be purchased from Sophia Press at deep discounts for quantities of 10 or more. Aja McCarthy at Sophia Press is at your service: 603-641-9344 or email: AMcCarthy@SophiaInstitute.com. For more information or to read a chapter for free please visit: www.sophiainstitute.com/landing/praying-priests/ or Amazon. There is an urgent need that we encourage one another, our priests and seminarians, to keep fighting the good fight with trust, courage and generosity. The Lord is doing a mighty work in our midst! Rejoice!

Closing Prayer: Eternal Father, we implore you to open the floodgates of grace for an increase of vocations to the ministerial priesthood. May couples be open to life and know the blessing of children. May Catholic families be inspired to pray together, and may parents be led to encourage their sons to seriously consider the priesthood. Please touch the hearts of young men to respond to the mysterious invitation of Jesus: “Come, follow me” (Matt. 19:21). By the whispers of the Holy Spirit, may many men respond to Christ’s invitation and rejoice that they have been chosen. Amen. (Praying For Priests: A Mission for the New Evangelization, pg. 191).



APRIL BIRTHDAY

April 5th
Sandy Toner

Vocation Prayer

2015

Pray Always

In the words of our beloved Mother Teresa:

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it. Life is a promise, fulfill it. Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is life, fight for it.

Lectors

- APR 7** Maureen Neglia, 1st Reading
Nancy Ivary,
Psalm & Prayers
- APR 21** Terry Toner, 1st Reading
Jim Briscoe,
Psalm & Prayers
- MAY 5** Jim Briscoe, 1st Reading
Loretta Callopy,
Psalm & Prayers

Ministers for Serra Masses



EMs

- Patty Baer, Host
John Biale, Cup
Elena Biale, Cup
- Barbara Caraccio, Host
Anne Champagne, Cup
Bob DeFeo, Cup
- Carol DeFeo, Host
Janie Hanson, Cup
Matt Ivary, Cup

“Always forward, never back!”
Junipero Serra



Carol DeFeo
608 S. Breezy Way
Orange, CA 92869

